

ADDENDUM TO THE FACT SHEET
FOR STATE WASTE DISCHARGE
PERMIT NO. ST-9221

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Facility: Curfman Steel Corporation
521 Midvale Road
Sunnyside, WA 98944

II. APPLICATION REVIEW

An application for permit reissuance was submitted to the Department of Ecology (Department) on March 30, 2005, and accepted by the Department on April 8, 2005. The scope and manner of any review of an application for replacement of a permit by the Department shall be sufficiently detailed as to insure the following:

- That the permittee is in substantial compliance with all of the terms, conditions, requirements and schedules of compliance of the expired permit;
- That the Department has up-to date information on the permittee's production levels; permittee's waste treatment practices; nature, content, and frequencies of permittee's discharge; either pursuant to the submission of new forms and applications or pursuant to monitoring records and reports resubmitted to the Department by the permittee; and
- That the discharge is consistent with applicable effluent standards and limitations, water quality standards, and other legally applicable requirements listed in WAC 173-220-130.

The permittee's facility houses a micro steel mill that processes steel billets into finished metal products. The mill has not operated since 1998. During the existing permit cycle only dry processing activities that don't generate wastewater, including bending sheet metal, have occurred at the facility. The sheet metal activities support the storage shed rental business the company operates from the building. The facility has not discharged process wastewater to the IWWTF since 1998.

The existing permit is being renewed at the permittee's request. The company feels that the facility can more easily be sold if a discharge permit is in effect. The company also feels the permit should be maintained should the decision be made to restart the mill.

III. PERMIT REAUTHORIZATION

The permit reauthorization process, in concert with the routine renewal of high priority permits, allows the Department to reissue permits in a timely manner and minimize the

number of active permits that have passed expiration dates. A system of ranking the relative significance of the environmental benefit to be gained by renewing a permit rather than reauthorizing a permit is followed during the Department's annual permit planning process. Each permit that is due for reissuance is assessed and compared with other permits that are also due for reissuance. The public is notified and input is sought after the initial draft ranking has tentatively established which permits are likely to be completely renewed and which are likely to be reauthorized. All relevant comments and suggestions are considered before a final decision is made regarding the type of reissuance for each permit.

This fact sheet addendum accompanies the draft permit, which is to be reauthorized to Curfman Steel for the discharge of wastewater to the Port of Sunnyside Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility (IWWTF). The previous fact sheet is also part of this administrative record and explains the basis for the discharge limitations and conditions of the reauthorized permit.

The existing discharge limitations and monitoring do not need to be changed to protect the receiving water quality. The previous fact sheet addressed conditions and issues at the facility at the time when the previous permit was issued, and statements made reflected the status in Curfman Steel. Since the issuance of the current permit, the Department has not received any information which indicates that environmental impacts from the discharge that were not evaluated at the time of the last permit issuance is persuasive enough to undertake a complete renewal of the permit. The reauthorized permit is virtually identical to the previous permit issued on September 5, 2000.

The discharge limits and conditions in effect at the time of expiration of the previous permit are carried over unchanged to this reauthorized permit. Assessment of compliance and inspections of the facility during the previous permit term indicate that the facility should not be placed on a high priority for permit renewal. The Department assigns a high priority for permit renewals in situations where water quality would materially benefit from a more stringent permit during the next five-year cycle.

The only changes to the previous permit are the submittal date requirements. Submittal requirements from the previous permit that were completed and submitted and do not require additional or continued assessment were removed from this permit. Aside from the submittal of monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs), the only document required by the existing permit was an Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Manual. The manual has not been submitted to the Department. The manual is primarily intended as a place for the Schedule A User Contract, because the facility does not maintain any pretreatment processes for its wastewater and the Port maintains the permit compliance equipment (sampler and flow meter). (Special Condition S1 requires the permittee to

submit any revisions of the user contract to the Department for review and approval.) Given the long-term inactive status of the facility and the lack of pretreatment processes, the utility of an extensive O&M Manual is questionable at this time. Therefore, this reauthorization requires the permittee to submit an O&M Manual that will consist of the Schedule A User Contract. The reason for retaining the formal requirement for an O&M Manual is that if the facility is sold and the permit transferred, the permit requires the new owner to update the manual when the facility becomes operational. In addition, a new requirement (Special Condition S4.C) was added to the permit to maintain a copy of the O&M Manual at the facility.

The submittal requirement for DMRs is revised in the proposed permit. As was stated earlier, the facility has not discharged process wastewater to the IWWTF since 1998. The permittee has submitted monthly DMRs stating 'no discharges have occurred' for approximately seven years. At this time there are no definite plans for either operating or selling the mill. Given these circumstances, the Department feels the submittal of DMRs is an unnecessary burden on the permittee. Therefore, in accordance with WAC 173-216-110(1)(g), which gives the Department authority to determine appropriate reporting requirements, the proposed permit does not require submittal of DMRs until the facility resumes operation or is sold. Details of the requirement to resume submittal of DMRs are contained in Special Condition S3.A. of the proposed permit.

The submittal dates for the other standard compliance and submittal requirements that have been carried over from the past permit into this reauthorized permit have been adjusted to the proposed permit schedule. The Department considered these submittals necessary in the previous permit and no information has come forward to cause a reconsideration of the submittal requirement.

IV. RECOMMENDATION FOR PERMIT ISSUANCE

The Department proposes that this permit be issued for 5 years.

APPENDIX A – PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION

The Department has determined to reauthorize a discharge permit to the applicant listed on page 1 of this fact sheet addendum. The permit contains conditions and effluent limitations that are described in the fact sheet.

The Department will publish a Public Notice of Application and Draft (PNOA/D) on May 12, and May 19, 2005 in the Sunnyside Daily Sun News to inform the public that an application, draft permit and fact sheet were available for review and to invite comment on the reauthorization of this permit. The draft permit, fact sheet, and related documents are available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays, by appointment, at the regional office listed below. Written comments should be mailed to:

Water Quality Permit Coordinator
Department of Ecology
Central Regional Office
15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200
Yakima, WA 98902

Further information may be obtained from the Department by telephone at 509/457-7105, or by writing to the address listed above.

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CURFMAN STEEL CORP.

EXPIRATION DATE: JULY 31, 2010

APPENDIX B – RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

No comments were received by the Department of Ecology.